

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A gastric band comprising:
 - a tension carrying belt;
 - a balloon attached to said tension carrying belt, said balloon comprising a plurality of partitions defining a plurality of inner chambers; and
 - a fluid supply tube ~~in fluid communication with said balloon and~~ attached to said tension carrying belt, said fluid supply tube comprising a plurality of inlets, each one of said plurality of inlets providing fluid communication between a corresponding one of said plurality of inner chambers and said fluid supply tube.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim [[2]] 1, ~~wherein said fluid supply tube further comprises~~ comprising a plurality of check valves, one of each of which is located within said plurality of check valves positioned between a corresponding one of said plurality of inner chambers of said balloon and a corresponding one of said plurality of inlets of said fluid supply tube.
4. (Original) The gastric band of claim 3, wherein each of said plurality of check valves comprises a one-way check valve.
5. (Original) The gastric band of claim 3 wherein each of said plurality of check valves comprises a two-way check valve.

6. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim [[2]] 1, wherein two or more of said plurality of inlets of said fluid supply tube are of different sizes.
7. (Original) The gastric band of claim 6, wherein said plurality of inlets are ordered from smallest to largest along said fluid supply tube such that said plurality of chambers of said balloon fill at relatively substantially similar rates.
8. (Original) The gastric band of claim 1, wherein said balloon has a length between about 8cm and about 15cm.
9. (Original) The gastric band of claim 1, wherein said tension carrying belt further comprises a latching mechanism.
10. (Original) The gastric band of claim 9, wherein said latching mechanism comprises one or more sutures.

11. (Currently Amended) A gastric band comprising:

a tension carrying belt;

a plurality of balloons ~~wherein said plurality of balloons is~~ attached to said tension carrying belt, each of said plurality of balloons comprising a separate skin, each said separate skin defining an interior chamber of each of said plurality of balloons; and

a fluid supply tube ~~comprising a plurality of inlets wherein said fluid supply tube is~~ attached to said tension carrying belt, ~~such that said fluid supply tube comprising a plurality of inlets of said fluid supply tube,~~ each one of said plurality of inlets provide providing fluid communication between each an interior chamber of a corresponding one of said plurality of balloons and said fluid supply tube.

12. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim 11, ~~wherein said fluid supply tube further comprises~~ comprising a plurality of check valves, one of each of which is located within said plurality of check valves positioned between an interior chamber of a corresponding one of said plurality of balloons and a corresponding one of said plurality of inlets of said fluid supply tube.

13. (Currently Amended) A gastric band positionable from an unencircled position to an encircled position, said gastric band comprising:

a tension carrying belt having a top portion;

~~a balloon having an interior surface, said balloon further comprising one or more reinforced sections disposed along the length of said interior surface of said balloon said balloon being attached to said tension carrying belt, said balloon comprising a skin, said skin defining a single interior chamber of said balloon when said gastric band is in said unencircled position, said skin further comprising an interior surface and one or more reinforced sections disposed along the length of said interior surface; and~~

~~a fluid supply tube wherein said fluid supply tube provides attached to said tension carrying belt, said fluid supply tube in fluid communication between said balloon and said fluid supply tube with said interior chamber of said balloon.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim 13, wherein upon being placed in ~~an encircling~~ said encircled position around a stomach, ~~each~~ at least one of said one or more reinforced sections of said skin contacts said top portion of said tension carrying belt thereby dividing said interior chamber of said balloon into at least two chambers.

15. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim 14, wherein said fluid supply tube further comprises a plurality of inlets, wherein each one of said plurality inlets of said fluid supply tube ~~is in~~ provides fluid communication ~~with~~ between at least one of said at least two chambers of said balloon and ~~with~~ said fluid supply tube.

16. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim 15, ~~wherein said fluid supply tube further comprises~~ comprising a plurality of check valves, one of each of which is located within said plurality of check valves positioned between a corresponding one of said plurality of inlets of said fluid supply tube and at least one of said at least two chambers of said balloon.
17. (Original) The gastric band of claim 16, wherein said balloon has a length between about 8cm and about 15cm.
18. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim 17, wherein said one or more reinforced sections comprise a material thicker than ~~balloon~~ said skin.
19. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim 18, wherein each of said one or more reinforced sections has a first end, a second end and a midpoint wherein the thickness of each of said one or more reinforced sections at said first end and said second end is substantially the same thickness as said ~~balloon~~ skin and wherein said thickness of each of said one or more reinforced sections at said midpoint is greater than the thickness of said ~~balloon~~ skin.
20. (Currently Amended) The gastric band of claim 19, wherein the thickness of each of said one or more reinforced sections at said midpoint is between about two and about eight times the thickness of said ~~balloon~~ skin.

21. (New) A gastric band comprising:

a tension carrying belt;

a balloon attached to said tension carrying belt, said balloon comprising a plurality of partitions defining a plurality of inner chambers; and

a fluid supply tube attached to said tension carrying belt, said fluid supply tube comprising a plurality of inlets, wherein two or more of said plurality of inlets are of different sizes, and wherein each one of said plurality of inlets providing fluid communication between a corresponding one of said plurality of inner chambers and said fluid supply tube.

22. (New) The gastric band of claim 21, wherein said plurality of inlets are ordered from smallest to largest along said fluid supply tube such that said plurality of inner chambers of said balloon fill at relatively substantially similar rates.

23. (New) A gastric band comprising:

a tension carrying belt having a top portion;

a balloon attached to said tension carrying belt, said balloon comprising an interior surface and one or more reinforced sections disposed along the length of said interior surface, wherein upon said gastric band being placed in an encircling position around a stomach, each of said one or more reinforced sections contacts said top portion of said tension carrying belt thereby dividing said balloon into at least two chambers; and

a fluid supply tube comprising a plurality of inlets, each of said plurality of inlets providing fluid communication between at least one of said at least two chambers of said balloon and said fluid supply tube.

24. (New) The gastric band of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of check valves, one of each of said plurality of check valves positioned between a corresponding one of said plurality of inlets of said fluid supply tube and at least one of said at least two chambers of said balloon.

25. (New) The gastric band of claim 24, wherein said balloon has a length between about 8cm and about 15cm .

26. (New) The gastric band of claim 25, wherein said one or more reinforced sections comprise a material thicker than said balloon.

27. (New) The gastric band of claim 26, wherein each of said one or more reinforced sections has a first end, a second end and a midpoint wherein the thickness of each of said one or more reinforced sections at said first end and said second end is substantially the same thickness as said balloon and wherein said thickness of each of said one or more reinforced sections at said midpoint is greater than the thickness of said balloon.

28. (New) The gastric band of claim 27, wherein the thickness of each of said one or more reinforced sections at said midpoint is between about two and about eight times the thickness of said balloon.